

Houghton-le-Spring Urban District
Council.



REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1938.


L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Houghton-le-Spring,
June, 1939.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

Very substantial sanitary improvements have been effected during the year. New houses to the number of 278 were erected by direct labour, and the demolition and clearance of insanitary properties was continued.

The conversion of ash-closets to the water carriage system proceeded satisfactorily.

In April the work of refuse collection and disposal by direct labour was extended to the whole of the district.

The free immunisation of children against Diphtheria continues by arrangement with private medical practitioners.

Since the crisis of September last a considerable amount of extra work has been occasioned by A.R.P. duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

LILIAN A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members,

Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Staff consists of :—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews). The Medical Officer is the Medical Superintendent of the Council's Isolation Hospitals.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

SANITARY INSPECTOR — No. 2 District. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY INSPECTOR — No. 3 District. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Fellow of Surveyors' Institute and holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

HEALTH VISITORS. Are appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council. They are fully qualified holding Nurses Certificates, etc.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

MATRON OF THE NORTHERN ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Whole time. Fully trained in General and Fever Nursing.

Contribution is made by the Government to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

The Tuberculosis, School Medical, Maternity or Child Welfare and Venereal Diseases Schemes are all administered directly by the County Council. The County Council also appoint the Public Assistance District Medical Officers and the Public Vaccinators.

The Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring is also the Public Assistance District Medical Officer for the No. 52 district of the No. 10 (Houghton and Chester-le-Street) Guardian's Committee area (i.e. for the old parishes of Warden Law and Houghton-le-Spring), and acts as Medical Officer of the local Public Assistance Hospital, Institution and Cottage Homes.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—5013 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population—mid 1938—29,450.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books—
7,836.

Rateable Value—£102,901.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£371.

Social Conditions and Chief Industries.

The chief industry in the district is that of coal mining. Subsidiary industries are agriculture and general trading whilst a proportion of the male population has found a fairly continuous employment at house erection. Temporary employment has been afforded by schemes carried out with the assistance of the Special Commissioner for Distressed Areas such as the sewerage works at South Biddick, widening of Houghton Cut and conversion of ash-closets to water carriage system.

The amount of unemployment as registered at the Labour exchange is in the case of males approximately 1 in 7 of the male population over 18 years of age and has varied very little during the year. There is very little unemployment of females over 18 as registered at the Exchange.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1938 was 475 as compared with 571 in 1937.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	461	222	239	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 16.13
	{ Illegitimate	14	9	5	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 15.1 for 1938.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born (3) the number of females born (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1938 as compared with 1937.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1937	571	274	297	18.19	210
1938	475	231	244	16.13	120

Still Births—During 1938 there were 19 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	19	14	5	
	{ Illegitimate ...	0	0	0	

giving a Rate of 38.46 per 1000 total (live and still births) births

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.64 in the district as compared with 0.60 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 355 residents in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District died, being 183 males and 172 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 12.05.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows :—

During 1938 there were 312 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 162 males and 150 females. Of these 15 males and 13 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 147 males and 137 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 36 males and 35 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 355, being 183 males and 172 females.

The death rate corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 12.05, the population at mid year 1938 being estimated to be 29,450. That for 1937 was 12.24.

The Registrar-General has calculated the death rate for England and Wales with a view to age — sex distribution and supplies a factor for obtaining a “ crude ” death rate for the district that it may be more fairly compared with that for Eng-

land and Wales. Such crude death rate in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District was 14.22 (using the locally corrected 12.05 death rate and a comparability factor of 1.18) as against 11.6 for England and Wales, and 14.44 for Houghton in 1937.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1938, 37 children died under the age of five years, as against 46 in 1937. Therefore 10.4 per cent. of the total deaths was of deaths of children under 5 years of age, as against 14.3 per cent. in 1937.

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 71 residents who died outside the district, 3 died in private houses, 1 outside, and 1 was found drowned. The remaining 66 died in Institutions, as follows :—

Sunderland Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	...	34
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	1
Wolsingham Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1
Sunderland Children's Hospital	...	...	...	...	10
Durham County Mental Hospital, Sedgefield	...	...	...	...	3
Sunderland Municipal Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	1
Relton House, Chester-le-Street	...	...	...	...	9
Sunderland Rural District Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1
Leeholme, Easington	...	...	...	...	1
Tindale Crescent Sanatorium, Bishop Auckland	...	...	...	...	1
Sherburn House Hospital, Sherburn	...	...	...	...	2
Rutson Hospital, Northallerton	...	...	...	...	1

3 residents in the district died in the Northern Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia, and 23 in Heath House, therefore of the total 355 deaths of residents, 92 or 25.9% occurred in institutions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list).

There were no deaths of women from puerperal sepsis but 2 from other puerperal causes, viz. :

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 live births	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	—	...	...
No. 30—			
Other Puerperal Causes	2	4.21	4.05
Total	2	4.21	4.05

Of the 28 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributable to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 7 cases, giving a percentage of 25%.

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1938, and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz— 6 under one week, 5 between 1 and 2 weeks, 2 between 2 and 3 weeks, 1 between 3 and 4 weeks, 2 between 4 weeks and 3 months, 6 between 3 months and 6 months, 3 between 6 months and 9 months, and 3 between 9 months and 12 months, a total of 28.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 355, 7.8 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 21.4 per cent. were under one week and 50.0 per cent. under four weeks of age.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1938.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	Certified ...	...	5	5	2	1	14	2	6	3	3	27
	Uncertified	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Small-pox ...			...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...
{ Chicken-pox ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Measles ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Scarlet Fever ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Whooping-cough ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Diphtheria and Croup ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Erysipelas ...			...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Tubercular Meningitis ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...
{ Convulsions ...			...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
{ Laryngitis ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Bronchitis ...			...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	1	7
{ Pneumonia (all forms) ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4
{ Diarrhoea ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteritis ...			...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
{ Gastritis ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Syphilis ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
{ Rickets ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Suffocation, overlying ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Injury at Birth... ...			1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Atelectasis ...			...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
{ Congenital Malformations ...			1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
{ Premature Birth ...			3	2	..	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...			...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Influenza ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other causes ...			1	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	3
			6	5	2	1	14	2	6	3	3	28

Nett Live Births— Legitimate.

Males. Females.

Illegitimate

Males. Females.

Corrected as per Registrar General ... } 222 239 9 5 = 475

Nett Deaths— 15 13 0 0 = 28
Local Corrected Figures.

During 1938 there were 323 deaths certified by registered medical practioners (nine of the deceased so certified having post mortems performed on them). 5 deaths were certified by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest ; 18 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem) ; and nine were uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Houghton	37	31	35	38	141
Penshaw	33	15	16	16	80
Newbottle	14	14	9	14	51
Fence Houses	10	14	11	14	49
Herrington	10	8	8	8	34
<i>Totals</i>	104	82	79	90	355

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.			Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Houghton	...	...	14	...	3	4	3	14	35	37	31	141
Penshaw	...	...	9	3	2	...	4	9	15	21	17	80
Newbottle	...	...	3	...	1	3	2	5	13	15	9	51
Fence Houses	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	6	17	8	13	49
Herrington	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	4	13	5	7	34
Total			28	3	7	7	16	38	93	86	77	355

During the year under consideration there were 6 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, giving a death rate per 1000 population, from this cause, of 0.20.

There were 2 deaths from "infantile" diarrhœa (under 2 years of age), 2 from diphtheria and 2 from measles.

In 1937 there were 9 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases being 5 from "infantile" diarrhœa, 3 from diphtheria and 1 from whooping cough — equivalent to a death rate of 0.30 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table :

No. of Deaths in Houghton-le-Spring
Population 29,450.

No. of Deaths in Houghton-le-Spring Population 29,450.										Death Rates in Houghton-le-Spring per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.															
Year	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea under 2 years	All Causes		Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers		Smallpox		Measles		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Influenza	
										H.o.	E-W	H.o.	E-W	H.o.	E-W	H.o.	E-W	H.o.	E-W	H.o.	E-W	H.o.	E-W	H.o.	E-W
1937	361	0	0	1	1	1	3	14	5	13.44	12.4	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.10	0.07	0.47	0.45
1938	355	0	0	2	0	0	2	8	2	14.22	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.27	0.11

Cancer.

There were 41 deaths during 1938 due to cancer and malignant diseases, as compared with 36 in 1937. This is equivalent to a mortality rate from this cause of 1.44 per 1000 population compared with 1.66 for England and Wales. In 1937, the mortality rate was 1.15 per 1000 population in Houghton-le-Spring, against 1.63 for England and Wales.

It is to be greatly regretted that everywhere the mortality rate from cancer is increasing. This is definitely accompanied by a large increase in the number of cases diagnosed and an increasing number successfully treated. Part of the increase however, is probably due to the improved facilities for diagnosis ; previously many cases were not diagnosed as malignant during life, and death was certified as being due to some other cause.

There is little doubt, unfortunately, that dislike of operations and even of the diagnosis itself prevents a number of patients from seeking advice soon enough. Year by year treatment is becoming more efficient, but it can only be this if given early. Particularly after the age of 45 must every abnormality from health be treated with respect and early advice sought.

Treatment by radium can be had at Sunderland Infirmary, but the big clinic for the North of England is in Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Constant research into the cause of this dread disease is being carried on and it is hoped that this may soon reach a successful termination.

Of the 41 deaths due to Cancer and other malignant diseases, nine were due to Cancer of the stomach, and five to cancer of the breast.

The following table shows the sites of the lesions, sex and age distribution :

Gastric—Males : 51, 56, 63, 67, 78, 87.	Females : 26, 36, 48
Breast—Females : 47, 50, 73, 74, 80.	Uterus—Females : 48, 62
Ovaries—Female : 57.	Rectum—Male : 70. Females : 42, 53
Tongue—Male : 67.	Ventricula—Male : 66. Pinna—Male : 81
Lung—Male : 61. Female : 52.	Mandible—Male : 63
Gall Bladder—Males : 72, 72.	Cæcum—Females : 65, 71, 76
Prostate—Males : 50, 68, 69.	Bladder—Male : 78
Maxilla—Females : 57, 74.	Kidney—Male : 74, Female : 59
Colon—Males : 51, 64.	

Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1938.

Causes of Death.				Male		Female.
All Causes				183	....	172
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers			0	...	0
2.	Measles	....	....	0	....	2
3.	Scarlet Fever	....	....	0	....	0
4.	Whooping Cough	....	....	0	....	0
5.	Diphtheria	....	....	0	....	2
6.	Influenza	....	....	6	....	2
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	....	....	0	....	1
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	....	....	0	....	1
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system			6	....	9
10.	Other tuberculous diseases			5	....	0
11.	Syphilis	....	....	0	...	0
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis			2	...	0
13.	Cancer, malignant disease			21	....	20
14.	Diabetes	....	....	3	....	5
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.			9	....	13
16.	Heart disease			61	....	49
17.	Aneurysm	....	....	0	....	0
18.	Other circulatory diseases			6	....	3
19.	Bronchitis	....	....	5	....	6
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)			9	....	8
21.	Other respiratory diseases			1	....	3
22.	Peptic Ulcer			4	....	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)			1	....	1
24.	Appendicitis			0	....	1
25.	Cirrhosis of liver			0	....	1
26.	Other diseases of liver, etc,			1	....	2
27.	Other digestive diseases			0	....	5
28.	Nephritis acute and chronic			3	....	7
29.	Puerperal sepsis			0	....	0
30.	Other puerperal causes			0	....	2
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.			9	....	4
32.	Senility	....	....	7	....	10
33.	Suicide	....	....	3	....	0
34.	Other violence			8	....	2
35.	Other defined diseases			11	...	12
	Diarrhœa (2 years and over)			0		0
	Smallpox					
	Poliomelitis			0		0
	Polioencephalitis					
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown			2	...	0

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1938, for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 143 Smaller Towns including Houghton-le-Spring. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000), compared with those for Houghton-le-Spring.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administra- tive County.	Houghton-le-Spring Urban District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
BIRTHS—					
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	15.13
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.64
DEATHS—					
All Causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	14.22
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers }	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	00.0	0.00	—	—	—
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.06
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.06
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.27
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet fever	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	2.72
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	2.14
Enteric fever	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.95
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	2.89
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57	58.9
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age }	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	4.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	}	Not available.		0.00
Others	2.19				4.21
Total	3.08				4.21
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births(i.e. Live & Still)				
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.86	}	Not available.		0.00
Others	2.11				4.05
Total	2.97				4.05
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Puerperal fever Puerperal pyrexia }	14.42	18.08	12.51	{ 3.53 15.46	6.31

Causes of Death.

(a) Tuberculosis.

There were 15 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1938, being equivalent to a death rate, per 1000 population, of .51 from pulmonary and .16 from non-pulmonary forms, as compared with death rates of .53 and .10 for the country as a whole.

Comparative Table :

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring	No. of Deaths from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring
1937	12	.58	.41	2	.11	.06
1938	15	.53	.51	5	.16	.10

(b) Heart Disease.

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area. 110 persons, being 61 males and 49 females, were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 39.86 per cent. of the total deaths and to a mortality rate of 3.29 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table :

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
			M	F	All Causes	Heart Disease	
1937	361	97	50	47	12.24	3.29	26.87
1938	355	110	61	49	12.05	3.73	39.86

Causes of Sickness and Invalidity.

The chief single cause of loss of work in the area is probably rheumatism. Particularly is this so amongst the miners, where the disease is due to, or greatly aggravated by, the conditions under which they must work.

Unfortunately, apart from the pain and suffering of rheumatism, it is possibly the most common cause of heart disease which sooner or later becomes fatal.

Gastritis, of varying severity, is another fairly common cause of invalidity in the district. Irregularity of meals following on alternative weeks of differing "shifts" must have some bearing on this but there is no doubt that both rheumatism and gastritis are frequently due to bad teeth and pyorrhœa, and we are of the opinion that National Health Insurance Benefits should always, regardless of Society concerned, cover dental treatment. This would in many cases prevent, in others minimise loss of work due to sickness such as rheumatism and gastritis.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

See commencement of Report.

Development or changes in the following Services.

Laboratory Facilities.

As before.

Ambulance Facilities.

As before.

There appears to be sufficient facilities for the transport of patients suffering from ordinary sickness or accident and infectious diseases. The Council's ambulance service is satisfactorily augmented by the ambulances which are provided by the Colliery Company.

Nursing in the Home.

Maternity nursing is now done almost entirely by midwives appointed by the County Council.

Sickness and Accidents. These cases may be attended by District Nurses. There are three branches of the Nursing Association operating viz. : Philadelphia and District, Lumley and Fence Houses, and Houghton-le-Spring. The subscription is extremely small, a penny per week. The County Council subscribe to all local branches annually, and anyone who is normally in receipt of Public Assistance may, in case of illness, have the services of a nurse on the recommendation of a doctor.

Infectious Diseases. These are usually nursed by parents or relatives or removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital. In very exceptional circumstances the Council could make available the provision of trained nurses for home nursing of infectious diseases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is no change in the services provided, all being maintained and administered by the County Council.

Hospitals — Public and Voluntary.

There is no change in the services provided.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Bacteriological examinations of water have been made monthly throughout the year, and the results of same indicated generally, that the water was of a pure and wholesome quality. The water supply has been satisfactory as regards quantity. Mains were extended on the Station Road Estate, Shiney Row, at a cost of £296. Mains were also extended in other parts of the district to supply new properties.

The 4 inch dia. main in Edwin Street, being "furred up" with manganese deposit was replaced with a 6 inch dia. main at a cost of £396.

The 6 inch dia. main from the North Reservoir, Miller's Hill, was completely choked with manganese deposit and 351 yards were replaced at a cost of £627.

Work, at an estimated cost of £500, on the replacing of the 4 inch dia. main in Dairy Lane (which was also choked with manganese), was commenced in December.

A scheme for a Water Softening and Filtration Plant was prepared and submitted in June to the Commissioner for Special Areas with an application for grant assistance.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Several new sewers were constructed in connection with the erection of various Housing Schemes in the district.

The construction of the Gillas Lane—Dairy Lane sewer at a cost of £2827 was completed in April, 1938.

Closet Accommodation.

Considerable progress was made with the work of converting the existing ash-closets to the water carriage system.

Half the actual cost of this work is chargeable to the owners and the Commissioner for Special Areas has made a 75% grant towards the Council's share of the cost.

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1938 was as follows :

Water Closets	...	...	6359
Ash Closets	...	...	1354
Privy Middens	...	...	16

Two schemes of Privy Conversion, one for 960 conversions and the other for 1094 conversions were approved during the year, and work, by direct labour, was commenced on Scheme No. 1 in July. At the end of the year 780 privies had been converted. In this connection approval was also obtained in each scheme for the expenditure of £450 for minor alterations to sewers. Accordingly, several sewers have been enlarged and others relaid.

Sewage Disposal Works.

The Flint Mill Sewage Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily, but repairs had to be executed to the tank walls owing to damage through mining operations.

The Sedgeleth Sewage Disposal Works were opened in May, 1938 and these are working satisfactorily.

The construction of the North Biddick Sewage Disposal Works commenced in August, and these works will be ready for opening in the summer.

Rivers and Streams.

Numerous complaints have been received in regard to the deposit of rubbish, etc. in the burn at Herrington, and on account of the nuisances created thereby a scheme for the culverting of the Burn, at an estimated cost of £1400, has been prepared and submitted to the Commissioner for Special Areas for grant assistance.

Refuse Collection and Removal.

On the termination of the contracts in March the Council introduced direct labour scavenging throughout the district.

Previously the Houghton Ward had been scavenged by the Council's workmen, three motor vehicles being employed on the work. The extension of this service to the other Wards necessitated the purchase of 6 additional vehicles, 4 Fordson and 2 Karrier Bantams. These were decided upon after a sub-committee had made several visits and seen the vehicles under working conditions. The personnel engaged consisted of 6 drivers and 8 fillers. The men employed are provided with protective clothing. Two new garages were erected—one at Newbottle and the other at Old Penshaw. In addition the question of suitable tips was considered, and arrangements were made for tipping at Sedgeleth and Whitefield Quarry. The latter necessitated the acquisition of a cottage which was situate near the tip and which has since been demolished. The conversion of the ashclosets to the water carriage system, which is in progress, is resulting in the work being performed more easily, and a definite improvement in the sanitary conditions.

The following are particulars of the new districts :

	Number of Houses.			
Fence Houses District	840
Newbottle District	789
Philadelphia District	795
Herrington District	865
Shiney Row District	885
Penshaw District	798

After nine months working experience it is anticipated that the actual costs of scavenging will approximate the original estimate.

Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during
the year 1938.

I. Public Health Acts.			Number of informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses	} Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding		2	...	2
and			160	42	152
Schools			30	...	22
Lodging-houses	...	...	1	...	1
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	20	...	18
Cowsheds	...	...	16	2	16
Bakehouses	...	...	6	...	6
Slaughter-houses	...	...	18	2	16
Ashpits and Privies...	...	...	148	583	1165 *
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	12	...	12
Waterclosets	...	...	85	...	85
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	22	...	22
House	} Defective Traps ... No disconnection from sewers Other Faults	...	68	...	68
Drainage		...	4	...	4
		...	74	...	74
Water Supply	...	...	30	7	30
Pigsties ...	...	...	4	...	4
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	2	..	2
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	4	...	3
Other Nuisances	...	...	12	...	12
TOTALS			718	636	1714

* Part Notices Served 1937.

Shops Acts.

These acts are now operated by your Council. A supply of handbooks was obtained and distributed mainly for the benefit of small shopkeepers. In the case of some of the larger and multiple shops the ventilation, heating and sanitary conveniences were inadequate and the matter has been taken up with the owners concerned.

Camping Sites.

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping. An annual "Fair" of four days duration is provided by travelling showmen, for whom sanitary arrangements are provided.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

During the year further action was taken in respect of 14 caravans which had become of a somewhat permanent character. Only one of these is now inhabited and it is anticipated that this tenant will shortly be rehoused.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be satisfactory.

We are pleased to observe that by the end of the year all schools in the district had drinking fountains installed or in the course of installation.

It has never been necessary to request that a school should be closed on account of infectious disease. Speaking generally, infectious cases have occurred scattered throughout the district and entirely without evidence of mass infection.

Public Houses — Sanitary Accommodation.

Various improvements have been effected in the sanitary accommodation of many of the Public Houses. In the case of a house in the Penshaw Ward considerable delay was occasioned through the owners having to acquire additional land. The negotiations have been satisfactorily concluded and it is expected that the necessary improvements will be put in hand shortly. Your Council have also requested that a bath should be installed where none is already provided.

Aged Persons Shelter.

On the Chester Road Estate are approximately 100 cottages occupied by Aged Persons. A Rest Room has been built and equipped for their use and is much appreciated. Games and newspapers are provided.

Cinemas.

Cinemas and places of public entertainment were inspected during the year and certificates issued as to their sanitary condition.

Smoke Abatement.

A deputation from your Council met the agent of the Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Collieries, Ltd., regarding a nuisance caused by the burning pit heap at New Herrington. The owners promised to give the matter their attention and the conditions have since been much improved.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

In May a course of instruction was given in London by the Royal Sanitary Institute and was attended by one of your Sanitary Inspectors. During the year 34 houses were disinfected, where possible all walls are stripped and skirtings, backmoulds and picture rails are removed. Fumigation is carried out by the use of Fumoids, Sulphur Dioxide and with contact insecticides such as Zaldecide applied by spray.

The work is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with either tenant or owner. In the case of properties situate in Clearance Areas the premises are visited before rehousing takes place, and if infestation is present the premises and furniture are fumigated. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

		Infested		Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	...	11	...	11
Number of Other Houses	...	23	...	23

Rat Infestation.

Several complaints were received of rat infested houses. There is a definite tendency to exaggeration in these cases. Complaints are investigated by your Inspectors, advice given and if necessary the circumstances are reported to the County Officer.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Statistics for the year 1938.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1242
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1580
(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	278
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	312
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	18
(4) Number of Dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	160

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	152
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	3

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	...	...	...	786
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	52
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners					956

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	18
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	11

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	6
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil

Overcrowding.

The incidence of overcrowding was to some extent relieved by the removal of tenants from Clearance Areas to Council Houses.

At the end of the year the position was as follows :

(a)	(I)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at 31st Dec., 1938	226
	(II)	Number of families dwelling therein	248
	(III)	Number of persons dwelling therein	1086
(b)		Number of Cases of overcrowding reported during the year	30
(c)	(I)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	140
	(II)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	634

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... 2

The following are details of the overcrowding existing in the various Wards, together with the allocation of the 148 new houses for which application has been made to the Ministry of Health.

Ward.									New Houses	
									A3.	A4.
Houghton	...	...	...	...	53	...	...	...	38	—
Fence Houses	...	...	...	...	45	...	...	...	12	16
Newbottle	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	18	6
Herrington	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	12	12
Penshaw	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	...	16	18
					226				96	52

Council Houses.

Statement of Progress.

SITE	No. of houses erected prior to 1938	No. of houses erected during 1938	No. of houses in course of erection at 31st Dec., 1938	Total
Chester Road Estate ...	146	28	24	198
Chilton Moor ...	142	...	6	148
Colliery Row ...	64	...	...	64
Grange Estate ...	80	...	8	88
Hall Lane ...	65	...	...	65
Hetton Road ...	192	110	4	306
Hillside... ...	72	...	...	72
Homelands ...	60	110	...	170
New Penshaw ...	30	...	...	30
Newtown ...	82	...	...	82
North Rectory ...	60	...	...	60
Park Estate ...	268	...	...	268
Penshaw Hill ...	72	...	...	72
St. Aidan's ...	108	...	...	108
Sedgeleth ...	20	...	...	20
Station Road ...	26	30	...	56
Villa No. 1 and 2 ...	176	...	...	176
Race Course ...	...	...	52	52
	1663	278	94	2035

Insanitary Houses.

A number of individual unfit houses were dealt with during the year.

The caravan encampment which has occupied "The Lake" fair ground for a number of years has now been completely disposed of.

Housing (Rural Workers' Act) 1936.

After consultation with the Ministry of Health your Council decided to administer this act. Since then applications for grant have been submitted in respect of twelve houses and in each case assistance has been given. Up to the end of the year none of the properties referred to had been completed.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Samples of milk have been regularly submitted to King's College for bacteriological examination. These include samples taken from the milk supplied to schools and imported milk usually sold on Sundays.

In cases where the reports were unsatisfactory the dairy methods were kept under close observation, and the dairymen were advised by the Sanitary Inspector. In all cases very considerable improvement were effected. The producers and retailers have always been ready to co-operate with the Health Department in their efforts to secure a clean wholesome milk supply, and I wish to express my appreciation of their help.

During the year improvements have been carried out at the following farms :

Penshaw North Farm — Improvements to byre and
new dairy provided.
Tilery Farm, Penshaw — Improvements to byre and dairy.
Herrington Burn Farm — Improvements to dairy.

Foundry Farm, Penshaw is not now let as a dairy farm, and the wooden byres at Clarks Buildings, Shiney Row have been put out of commission.

The number of registered cowkeepers and dairymen in the district is 32. Of these 6 are producers of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) or "Accredited" Milk. Practically the whole of the milk supply is obtained in the immediate locality where the dairy herds are of a very high standard.

Slaughter-Houses.

There are 15 licensed slaughter-houses in the district and 32 shops for the sale of meat.

These premises are regularly inspected and the inspection of carcasses is very rigid.

The animals slaughtered are generally of a good prime quality, the bulk of them now arrive in motor trucks from the marts and are properly housed and hungered before slaughtering.

Cottage Slaughtering.

There was a decrease in the number of pigs slaughtered by Cottagers — only 40 having been slaughtered by them during the year. This is due to several of the tenants having been rehoused on Council Housing Estates and to many of the pigs reared being sold to local butchers for slaughter.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The provisions of this Act are strictly enforced in the area and 53 slaughtermen are now registered under the Act.

The Humane Killer is in general use.

The following are the approximate number of animals slaughtered during the year.

Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
975	420	23	2569	1418

making a total of 5405 of which 86% were inspected.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	975	420	23	2569	1418
Number inspected ...	687	368	19	1531	1121
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	27	52	—	69	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than T B. ...	3.9	14.0	—	4.5	—
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	3	3	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	23	47	—	—	64
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B. ...	3.7	12.8	—	—	5.7

Shellfish.

There are no beds in the district.

Bakehouses.

These premises are regularly inspected and found to be well kept. There are 17 bakehouses in the district. During the year one was demolished, but a new bakehouse was put into commission at Front Street, Shiney Row.

Nutrition.

Apart from the work of Health Visitors, of which a considerable amount is done at the Child Welfare Clinics, no particular steps have been taken to increase the knowledge of the public on the subject. In previous years this has been tackled during Health Week in the district, but there was invariably such a lack of interest in Health Week in all its phases that this was abandoned. Whilst it may be very desirable to teach some mothers the importance of nutrition, there can be no doubt that naturally, or otherwise, the housewives are capable of applying the various principles for it is amazing how families are being reared, generally without any gross signs of malnutrition, on a scale per head very much less than that made famous by the B.M.A.

No special investigation on the subject of nutrition has been made, although it was noted that the incidence of infectious diseases was not directly related to unemployment.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following are the principal places within your district.

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. Durham Collieries Electrical Power Station.
4. Sunderland & District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing.
10. Builders Merchants
11. Candle Making
12. Bakeries
13. Sugar Confectioners

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	32	...	...
Factories without mechanical power...	66	7	...
†Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises).	...	...	...
†Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total	98	7	...

2—Defects found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	4	4	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineff'ctive drainage of floors (S6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary conveniences (S7):—				
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences ...	...	...	...	...
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total ...	7	7	...	...

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year 1938 some 290 cases of infectious diseases including all forms of Tuberculosis were notified as occurring in the district. This shows a slight increase on the figure for 1937 which was 262.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever remained epidemic in the district, 80 cases being notified compared with 74 in 1937.

Of these 63 were isolated in hospital. The district is not particularly suitable for home nursing of such infectious diseases for, although statistics do not show a large amount of overcrowding, yet the present standard for overcrowding demands a kitchen to be included as living room and this means that in many cases which are not stated to be overcrowded, it is nevertheless completely impossible to give a sick person a bedroom to his or herself. For the same reason it has been found impracticable to shorten the duration of stay in hospital, since the patient cannot be guaranteed a separate bed, etc., on discharge. Return cases are practically unknown when patients are isolated for six weeks, but more frequently occurred when the stay in hospital was shortened, or if the patient were released early, when nursed at home.

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified and there was no history of any relationship with scarlet fever, or sore throat without rash.

The case incidence for the district is 2.72 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales being 2.41.

The case incidence for the various wards is 3.87 Penshaw, 3.00 Houghton, 1.79 Newbottle, 1.96 Fence Houses and 3.17 Herrington, each per 1,000 population.

Diphtheria.

There were 63 cases of diphtheria in the district during 1938, as compared with 80 cases in 1937. In several instances definite contact with other patients could be traced and in the Herrington Ward one class was particularly affected. The School Medical Officer took swabs from all the remaining pupils and one was found to be carrying the germ. This child was immediately isolated until clear and trouble forthwith ceased.

Three cases were isolated at home, 59 were isolated in the Northern Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia, and one in the Borough Sanatorium, Sunderland, where it was sent for a tracheotomy operation.

Although a considerable number of cases were acutely ill on admission there were only two deaths. This was most probably due to the prompt use of antitoxin by practitioners outside. Antitoxin is supplied free and advantage is taken of this service, since it is frequently given in cases of doubt whilst waiting for the bacteriological report. It may be obtained at any hour of the day or night at the Northern Isolation Hospital.

The County Council pay for the examination of swabs which are sent by medical practitioners to the Public Health Laboratory, Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. During the year approximately 135 swabs were thus sent for examination, of these, 31 were positive, 97 were negative and 7 were inconclusive.

Of the 59 patients treated in the Northern Hospital, two died.

The case incidence of diphtheria in the district was 2.14, as compared with 1.58 for England and Wales.

The case incidence in the wards is Houghton 2.33, Herrington 4.8, Penshaw 0.86, Fence Houses 1.7, and Newbottle 1.99 per 1,000 population.

Immunisation.

Of the 63 cases of diphtheria, 6 children had been immunised, four being immunised within a period which was too short for immunity to have completely developed. All children who had been so treated some time previously had a very mild attack. By a further injection — a test known as the Shick test — it would be possible to tell definitely whether protection was complete after immunisation, but owing to the general dislike to such injections this has not been carried out, lest it should deter parents from having their children protected. Under the Council's scheme 736 children were immunised during 1938, being 153 pre school age and 583 school children.

Parke Davis' Diphtheria Toxoid Alum Precipitated was used, one injection being given. Treatment was carried out by the patients' family doctors at their surgeries or in the homes as desired.

By the end of 1938 approximately 3,000 children in the district had been immunised.

Influenza.

There was a fairly mild epidemic of Influenza at the commencement of the year and cases again began to be more numerous about December. 8 deaths occurred in which influenza was stated to be the primary cause of death, as against 14 in 1937, and there were 17 deaths from pneumonia (all forms) a certain number of which were secondary to influenza, a decrease compared with 1937, when 18 died of pneumonia.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

The epidemic of measles which commenced at the end of 1937 continued during most of the first quarter of 1938. There were 2 deaths attributed to this cause.

No local action has been taken in the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is no doubt that measles serum is of very great value for this purpose but unfortunately there is by no means a sufficient supply in the country to meet the demands for it. As it becomes more plentiful its use in the district must be seriously considered. It will be necessary probably to supply it free, at least in a considerable number of cases, like diphtheria anti-toxin.

Whooping-cough became mildly epidemic on a few occasions but was generally of a mild type. There were no deaths.

No case of measles or whooping cough was admitted to the isolation hospital as such. There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping-cough is of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

The number of cases of pneumonia and erysipelas notified showed a definite increase, there being 85 cases of pneumonia and 28 cases of erysipelas notified during 1938, as against 55 and 17 respectively in 1937. The case rate for pneumonia and erysipelas and the distribution thereof is shown in the tables hereafter.

School Notification of Disease.

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools. As already mentioned swabs were taken of pupils in a class at New Herrington School and one was found to be carrying diphtheria germs.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1933.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1938.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	..	..	..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	80	63	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	63	60	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	3	1	—
Erysipelas	..	..	..	28	—	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	85	—	17
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..	..	..	2	—	—
TOTALS	..	..	..	261	124	19

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.:— the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1938, showing age incidence and distribution in District.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population	
	At Ages—Years												Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington	Total			
	65 and over																				
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Total									
Scarlet Fever	1	3	3	8	5	33	22	3	1	1	...	...	80	27	27	9	5	12	80	63	2.72
Diphtheria	...	1	3	5	5	26	15	6	2	...	...	...	63	21	6	10	8	18	63	60	2.14
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	...	...	3	1	0.10
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	8	8	6	9	6	13	...	4	9	4	13	5	...	44	14	11	12	4	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3	4	14	4	28	5	6	10	4	3	28	...	2.89
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	4	1	...	1	...	2	4	...	...
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	...	6	4	...	...	1	1	6	...	0.95
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	2	...	2	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	10	3	3	2	2	...	10	...	0.13
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	1	...	6	1	2	...	3	...	6	...	0.20
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	0.34
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	0.20
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	0.07
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03
Dysentery	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	11	13	15	22	18	80	41	17	24	11	28	10	290	108	61	46	35	40	290	124	...

Case Rates for Infectious Diseases — Notifications per 1,000 population.

Figures for England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns. Those for Houghton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	Houghton Urban District	Case Rates in Wards				
				Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.41	2.58	2.72	3.00	3.81	1.79	1.06	3.17
Diphtheria	1.58	1.53	2.14	2.33	0.86	1.99	1.7	4.8
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.40	0.39	0.95	0.55	0.86	1.99	0.85	0.79
Pneumonia	1.10	0.98	2.89	4.9	2.00	2.19	2.51	1.05

Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1938 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

13 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 5 males and 8 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 16 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 11 males and 5 females. In 1937 there were 18 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 10 males and 8 females, and 14 cases of non-pulmonary forms, being 8 males and 6 females, notified.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis notified in 1938 according to sex and ward.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Houghton ...	1	5	3	...	9
Penshaw ...	1	...	3	1	5
Newbottle ...	1	1	3	...	5
Fence Houses...	...	1	2	4	7
Herrington ...	2	1	...	...	3
Totals ...	5	8	11	5	29

The following table shows the various age-periods, for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ..	—	—	5	1	—	—	3	—
5 years ..	—	3	5	2	—	—	1	—
15 years ..	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	—
25 years ..	3	3	—	1	4	2	—	—
35 years ..	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—
45 years ..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards ..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	5	8	11	5	6	9	5	—

Occupation.

In the case of pulmonary tuberculosis :

4 were housewives, 2 were miners, 1 was retired, 1 was a labourer, 1 was a bandsman, 1 was a shop assistant, and 3 were at school.

In the case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis :

1 was a housewife, 6 were at school, 2 were miners, 6 were under school age, and 1 had no occupation.

Site of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

9 cervical glands, 2 ankles, 2 abdomen, 1 hip, 1 knee, and 1 meninges.

Social Conditions of Patients Suffering from Tuberculosis.

Nearly 60% of the patients suffering from tuberculosis share their rooms with one or more persons, the majority also sharing the bed. This is definitely undesirable in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis or where there are discharging wounds and this should always be borne in mind in allocating houses. Financially the family income is that of the average working man in the district, but in a long drawn out illness such as tuberculosis the extras necessary for the patient frequently negatives the ability to pay rent for a larger house.

This is probably one reason why names of families with a patient suffering from tuberculosis are rarely found on the application forms for council houses.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patient or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment. There were six deaths from tuberculosis during the year which had not been notified. Two had been notified and removed from the Register as cured, and I believe the others were not notified because the doctor in attendance was waiting to make sure of the diagnosis first, but death intervened.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

During the year 33 specimens were sent by local practitioners, of which 3 were positive and 30 negative. The Assistant Tuberculosis Medical Officers sent 32 specimens from patients resident in the area. Of these 6 were positive and 26 negative.

Breretons Ltd., Printers, Hetton and Houghton